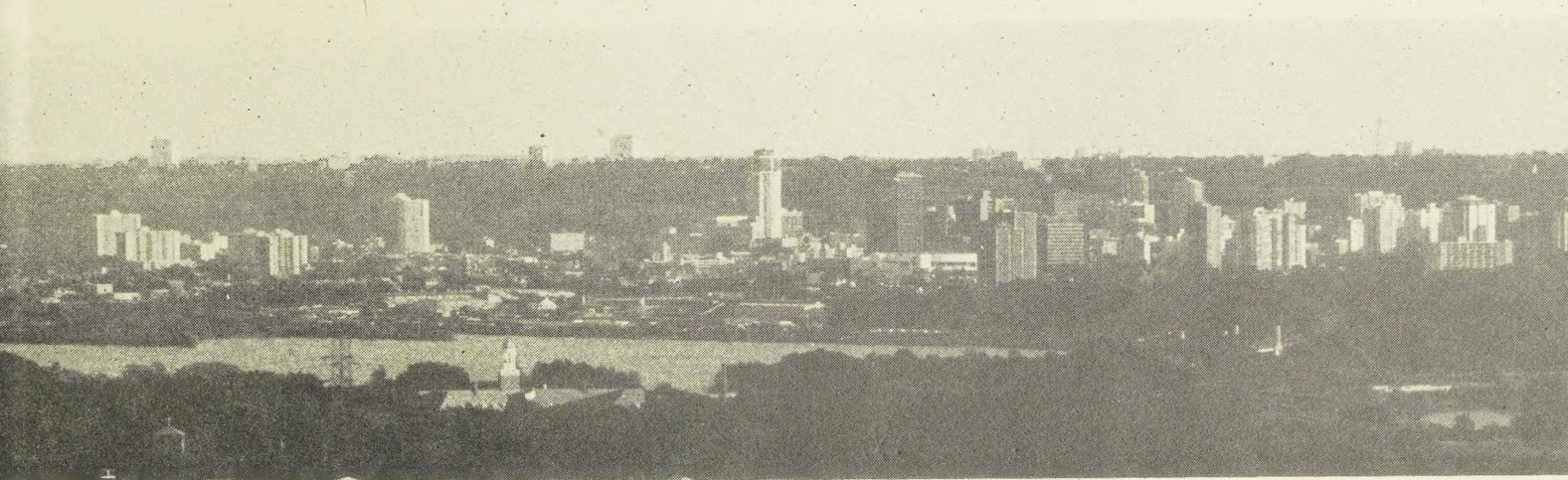


Implementing Vision 2020



Directions for Creating A Sustainable Region

January, 1993



The Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development
The Regional Municipality of Hamilton-Wentworth.



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Implementing
Vision 2020

Directions
for
Creating a
Sustainable Region

Prepared for
The Regional Municipality
of
Hamilton-Wentworth

by

The Regional Chairman's
Task Force on Sustainable Development

January, 1993

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Task Force on Sustainable Development

economic, social and environmental planning for the future

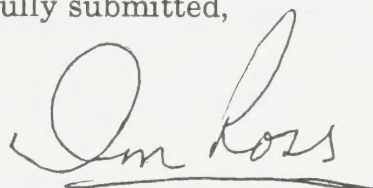
December, 1992

TO THE REGIONAL CHAIRMAN
THE REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY OF HAMILTON-WENTWORTH

In 1990, I was asked to chair a Task Force on Sustainable Development (Report PLA-90-030). The mandate given the Task Force by Regional Council was to explore the concept of sustainable development, and identify how it could be applied to the work and operation of Regional Government. I am pleased to submit for the consideration of Regional Council the attached reports "*Directions for Creating a Sustainable Region*" and "*Detailed Actions and Strategies for Creating a Sustainable Region*".

On behalf of the Task Force, I would like to express a sincere thanks to the over 1,000 citizens who participated in our work. Only through strong citizen involvement and commitment can a sustainable community be created.

Respectfully submitted,



Don Ross, Chairman



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Acknowledgements

We would like to acknowledge the contributions made by so many individuals towards the development of the community vision statement and implementation strategy. In particular, a special thanks goes to the participants from the vision working groups, the implementation teams, the public participation process advisory committee, and former members of the Task Force. The commitment and dedication of so many citizens, tells us, that a sustainable community is an obtainable goal.



December, 1992

It is my pleasure to introduce the final report of the Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development. With the assistance of over 1,000 citizens, the Task Force has prepared two very extensive documents reflecting almost three years of hard work. I would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to all members of the Task Force for their commitment to tackling the difficult tasks given them. In particular, it is appropriate that I make special mention of the work of the Chairman, Councillor Don Ross, who has carried out his responsibilities in an excellent manner, as I knew he would when I invited him to accept the task.

Sustainable development is defined as "development that meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs." In order to ensure a viable future, sustainable development requires the integration of economic, environmental, and social factors in all decision making. Sustainable development is a concept which can assist in guiding future decision making by elected officials, business leaders, community agencies, and individual citizens.

To explore and identify how best to use the concept, I requested Regional Council to organize the Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development with Councillor Don Ross as the Chairman. Made up of fifteen citizen volunteers from a variety of backgrounds, with some very dedicated staff support, the Task Force has been meeting regularly to identify the decisions and changes necessary to implement the concept of sustainable development.

As I have watched and participated in the work of the Task Force, I have been amazed by the level of citizen involvement. Individuals from all walks of life have taken the time and energy to contribute their thoughts and considered ideas for creating a sustainable community. The members of the Task Force can feel extremely proud of their efforts to involve so many citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth. I know other communities are looking at Hamilton-Wentworth as an example for community involvement and implementation of sustainable development.

.../2.

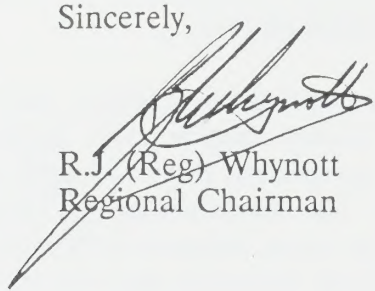
In June, 1992, the Task Force presented Regional Council with a vision statement entitled, "VISION 2020 - The Sustainable Region". This statement, adopted by Council as a basis for all regional decision making, is an expression of a desired future for our community. Vision 2020 provides everyone, including citizens, elected representatives, business leaders, public servants, and local agencies with a common goal.

When the Task Force first released Vision 2020 some critics claimed they (the Task Force) had failed to identify the decisions and choices needed to create a sustainable community. After reading the final reports, I can say that the Task Force has addressed this criticism and more.

The Task Force, in its two final reports - "*Directions for Creating a Sustainable Region*" and "*Detailed Actions and Strategies for Creating a Sustainable Region*" - has clearly shown the directions and decisions which are needed to make Vision 2020 a reality. As you read the reports, I encourage everyone to think about what they can do to implement these directions. Although Regional Government must provide the leadership, it is obvious from the Task Force reports that the responsibility for action lies with each and every citizen of Hamilton-Wentworth. If everyone adopts the principles of sustainable development, we will create a better Hamilton-Wentworth.

Working together, Regional Council and the citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth can build, over the next thirty years, a community that reflects the statements of Vision 2020.

Sincerely,



R.J. (Reg) Whynott
Regional Chairman

1.0 Introduction

Regional Council has attempted to organize a process that would allow every citizen, to contribute their views and ideas about Hamilton-Wentworth's future. To this end, one of the most extensive public outreach programmes seen in Ontario, was developed and implemented to solicit people's opinions through community meetings, open houses, public workshops, focus group discussions, and special research working groups.

The vehicle for implementing this extensive public outreach programme was the **Regional Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development**. Appointed by Council in 1990, the Task Force was given the mandate to complete the following six tasks:

1. *To develop a precise definition of sustainable development for Hamilton-Wentworth that will be used by the Task Force in developing a vision for the Region;*
2. *To develop a vision to guide future development in Hamilton-Wentworth based on the principles of sustainable development;*
3. *To establish a public outreach programme to increase awareness of the concept of sustainable development and to act as a vehicle for feedback on potential goals, objectives and policies for the Region;*
4. *To provide input as to how the concept of sustainable development can be turned into practical applications through Regional initiatives;*
5. *To demonstrate and articulate in detail, the usefulness of the sustainable development concept, in the review of the Regional Official Plan, the Region's Economic Strategy and possibly other Regional strategies; and*
6. *To provide direction to staff and the Economic Development and Planning Committee who will be using the concept in the review of the Economic Strategy and the Official Plan.*

In June, 1992 the Task Force presented Regional Council with "**Vision 2020 - The Sustainable Region**" which is a statement of a desired future for Hamilton-Wentworth. Adopted by Council as a basis to regional decision making, the vision statement completed the first three tasks of the mandate. This document "*Directions for Creating a Sustainable Region*" and its companion document, "*Detailed Strategies and Actions for Creating a Sustainable Region*" completes the remainder of the Task Force mandate.

Over the last three years, a number of challenging issues were discussed and debated by the members of the Task Force and citizens in public forums and meetings. These included broad issues, such as, urban design, provision of housing choice, environmental protection, transportation priorities, residential intensification, and more specific issues, like the north-south link of the Red Hill Creek Expressway, the Perimeter Road, and development in the Pleasant View area of Dundas.

Given the broad range of interests, represented by members of the Task Force and the high level of citizen involvement, it is not surprising that not everyone agreed about everything. There are a number of issues and ideas raised by citizens which they will not find in the final reports. Although every idea and issue of concern received rigorous debate by members of the Task Force, the final report represents a consensus among members about what the majority of people participating in the public outreach programme feel is required to create a better Hamilton-Wentworth.

The proposals presented in this report and its companion "*Detailed Strategies and Actions for Creating a Sustainable Region*", will lead to the creation of a Hamilton-Wentworth fundamentally different from the one in which we live today. The proposed changes in values and perceptions, will lead to a community based on the principles of sustainable development.

Implementation will require significant change in the way municipal tax dollars and staff are allocated and directed. Priorities will shift resulting in changes in programs and activities. For example, money spent on transportation will shift from building and maintaining infrastructure which accommodates private motor vehicles, to developing one which accommodates alternative forms of transportation.

It is imperative from the beginning that the Region, Area Municipalities, and other jurisdictions, including private and governmental bodies, be made aware of the long term direction presented in the this report. Focus of implementation will initially be on introducing the recommended directions into long term policy and planning documents, such as, the Region's Official Plan, Area Municipal Official Plans, the Region's Economic Strategy, and long term infrastructure provision and maintenance plans. These documents will reflect the directions and principles of sustainable development.

The timing of implementation of specific programs and actions is dependent upon the availability of resources and the success of initial activities. Everything proposed in this report will not be acted upon overnight. It must be emphasized that the directions presented are for a thirty year time period. Successful implementation requires a strong commitment to the long term vision and directions.

The directions presented in this report can serve as a blueprint for a more sustainable future. Implementation will require change in government policies, programs and directions but foremost, this document will remain nothing more than a set of good ideas, unless every citizen turns their energies toward implementing its goals. Action is required by every individual and until everyone grabs hold of the values of sustainable development the community envisioned in VISION 2020 will be unattainable.

So while Regional Government can provide the leadership, successful implementation lies upon the shoulders of each and every citizen of Hamilton-Wentworth. You will need to take actions, such as, buying locally grown produce, finding alternatives to using your car, and revising your energy usage. Change in society can and does come through individual decisions and actions.

WE CAN build a community based on the principles and values of sustainable development.

1.1 Report Structure

The following document is a synthesis of the goals and major directions identified by the Task Force, the eight implementation teams, and by citizens during the two year public outreach programme. The reports of the eight implementation teams and summary reports of the public outreach programme are available in both the Hamilton and Wentworth Public Libraries.

The goal of this document is to identify for Regional Council the major policy shifts and directions, needed to begin the process of creating a sustainable region. The thoughts presented are aimed at achieving the community envisioned in "*Vision 2020: The Sustainable Region*" (see Appendix A).

This report is presented according to the five topic headings contained in Vision 2020 - The Landscape; Our Communities; Getting Around; Quality of Life; and Livelihood. Within each topic there are a number of sub-topics. Under each topic is a brief description of the issue of concern, the policy shifts, the goals, and the new directions. The final section of this report, What Next?, outlines the broad activities which Regional Government should initiate to begin the process of implementation.

The companion document "*Detailed Strategies and Actions for Achieving a Sustainable Region*", provides over 300 recommendations on what specific activities could be undertaken to achieve the policy shifts, goals, and new directions presented in the following report.

2.0 The Landscape

2.1 Natural Areas and Corridors

Vision 2020 describes a system of interconnected protected natural areas threading through both the rural and urban areas of Hamilton-Wentworth. These natural areas are places for wildlife to co-exist with human activities.

The system of natural areas consists of natural core areas, such as, wetlands, forests and other ecologically significant habitats used by local wildlife. These core areas would be inter-linked by stream corridors, farm hedgerows and newly created linear links, with vegetative buffers providing additional protection. These natural corridors would enable wildlife to move from one geographic area to another. Facilitating the movement of wildlife is important to ensure the interchange of different genetic pools of species and to give larger animals a sufficient geographic area to roam free of harassment while providing enough territory to support the functioning of the other levels of the ecosystem.

This expressed goal is a reflection of the comments made by citizens during the public participation programme. One of the seven major issues of concern, stated by the majority of people during the 1990 community workshops, was *"the loss of natural areas and encroachment on conservation lands and scenic areas"*. When people were asked to discuss what they liked about Hamilton-Wentworth, many identified features, such as, the Dundas Valley, Cootes Paradise, the Royal Botanical Gardens, the Niagara Escarpment, Confederation Park, and Albion Falls. Although people at the September '92 Community Workshop did express concerns about the compatibility of a system of natural areas with agricultural activities and transportation systems, everyone agreed that these are issues which can be addressed and that the system of interconnected natural areas is a goal towards which everyone in the community should be working.

Hamilton-Wentworth is already blessed with many of the building blocks for creating this system of natural areas. The Royal Botanical Gardens, and local Conservation Authorities have purchased and protected many natural core areas, in particular the Dundas Valley, Beverly Swamp, Cootes Paradise and parts of the Niagara Escarpment. Possibilities for linear corridors exist in the Bruce Trail, the abandoned T,H&B railway line, and the Ferguson Street railway line. The Natural Areas Inventory project provides up-to-date information for identifying important core areas and corridors.

There is however, no plan which shows the various geographic areas that should form part of a system of interconnected natural areas. A comprehensive strategy for preserving the natural areas of Hamilton-Wentworth, and rehabilitating others, will require significant inter-agency cooperation, community involvement, and political commitment at all levels.

Policy Shift

There are a number of agencies and government policies, all with the same general goal of protection of natural areas. What is needed is a partnership approach that embraces all stakeholders and which results in joint management and shared goals that better coordinate activities to ensure natural areas are protected.

The development of a comprehensive approach to resource management requires an appreciation of safe guarding ecological systems in the context of benefits to future generations and a willingness to share responsibilities.

*"A recreational greenway gives residents access
to this system of natural areas, . . ."*



Goal

To develop a system of interconnected protected natural areas, which provides for the growth and development of natural flora and fauna and, where appropriate, provides access for all citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth.

New Directions

- **DEVELOP JOINT RESPONSIBILITY AND COORDINATION** - the Region should take a leadership role in facilitating the development of shared goals and joint projects between government agencies and between government, citizens and business. This is the best way to get the most effect from limited resources. Examples of joint projects include, a land acquisition fund, joint research projects, and maintaining a shared natural areas information system.
- **IDENTIFY THE DESIRED SYSTEM IN THE REGION'S OFFICIAL PLAN** - in cooperation with all stakeholders identify the hierarchy of natural areas and corridors and policies controlling the land uses within and around the system of natural areas. Geographic areas to be included but not limited to, should be Areas of Natural and Scientific Interest, Environmentally Sensitive Areas, Wetlands, Niagara Escarpment, and significant woodlots and wildlife habitats.
- **ALLOCATE FUNDING FOR ACQUISITION OF PROPERTIES** - funding can be achieved by the re-allocation of government spending brought about by a new focus on sustainable development, and by making use of a partnership approach to the development of a community land acquisition fund, and by making use of new techniques for funding, such as, development charges, environmental lotteries, revisions to the tax system, and making use of the 5% park dedication under the Planning Act to acquire linear, passive space.
- **EDUCATE PEOPLE ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE AND VALUE OF PROTECTING NATURAL AREAS** - encourage local school boards to increase the natural heritage component of their curriculums and encourage the Hamilton Conservation Authority to develop a community information and education program for citizens, elected officials, civil servants, and visitors to Hamilton-Wentworth. The Natural Areas Inventory provides a valuable base for developing this education program.

2.2 Improving the Quality of Water Resources

Substances that are discharged into our waters - be they surface or ground water - eventually show up in our water supplies and in the food chains of our natural aquatic ecosystems. Approximately 10% of the region's population relies directly upon wells for drinking water. Maintenance of groundwater resources is of utmost importance for rural residents and for the health of natural communities that require uncontaminated drinking water.

While Lake Ontario is a good source of fresh water, there are significant concerns about the effects of disposing waste water and storm water into Hamilton Harbour, and about the long term effects of the release of contaminants either directly or indirectly into Hamilton Harbour, Lake Ontario and the region's streams, creeks and groundwater.

During the public outreach programme the Task Force heard many people express concerns about water pollution, ground water contamination and the state of Hamilton Harbour. People were disappointed about being unable to swim in the Harbour and in Lake Ontario and about the lack of public access to the waterfront. Essentially the views and concerns of the public can be summarized as clean-up the lake, clean-up the harbour, and clean-up the waterfront.

Policy Shift

Consider water as a limited resource both environmentally and economically in relation to its use as a potable substance and as a flushing agent.

Goals

To ensure the water quality in Hamilton Harbour, Lake Ontario and other surface bodies is generally good, that the water is clear and that swimming is a safe activity.

To identify and eliminate all significant sources of potential chemical contamination by the year 2000.

To reduce the combined municipal water use of households and businesses by 50% by the year 2000.

To restore adequate habitat for fish and birds to a level necessary to restore the populations to a healthy and productive state.

To preserve and enhance to their ecological potential the wetlands and stream systems that comprise the Region's watersheds.

*"... , giving people easy and convenient access to . . .
continuous public open space along the bayshore and lakeshore."*



Principles

The quality and quantity of water resources is a function of land use and water management practices, pollution control, stormwater management, building codes and construction practices, and individual action of the citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth.

New Directions

- **REDUCE WATER CONSUMPTION BY BOTH HOUSEHOLDS AND BUSINESS** - educate citizens about the benefits of water conservation and reduction activities; implement a user pay concept by placing water meters on all users; charge a water consumption fee that will recover the following costs: capital costs, maintenance costs, operating costs and adverse environmental impact costs; and enact policies requiring all new development to use high efficiency fixtures.
- **LOCATE NEW DEVELOPMENT TO PREVENT ANY POSSIBLE HARM TO WATER RESOURCES** - prevent development in stream valleys and in areas immediately adjacent to streams; establish vegetated stream buffers; and unless absolutely necessary avoid channelling streams and creeks.
- **RESTORE AND PROTECT NATURAL HABITAT** - support efforts to restore marshes in Cootes Paradise and Hamilton Harbour; implement sub-watershed planning; adopt land use policies to control development in stream valleys; and avoid channelling streams and creeks into concrete or other artificial aqueducts, sewers or ditches.
- **PROTECT GROUNDWATER RESOURCES** - develop a regional groundwater resource management strategy which identifies the region's groundwater resources and the associated threats to these resources; evaluation of rural land severance for new development must include monitoring of cumulative impacts; phase out rural estate development outside the rural settlements and minimize the number of rural land severances; and encourage the phasing out the use of pesticides, herbicides and other chemicals in farming, in the care of municipal parks, and home lawn and gardens.
- **IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF WATER IN THE HARBOUR AND OTHER SURFACE WATER** - implement the actions suggested in the Remedial Action Plan; undertake the capital improvements needed to the Sewage Treatment Plants to meet the targets in the Remedial Action Plan; place a high priority on eliminating combined sewer overflows; ecologically maintain wetlands and streams; and employ land use controls to protect wetlands and streams with vegetative buffers.

2.3 Improving Air Quality

Of all the natural resources we depend upon, few are as important as that of fresh, breathable air. To a certain degree the quality of air is more important to our personal health than changes in the state of the land or water. Particles in the air and certain gases can have adverse effects on our respiratory systems, the destruction of the ozone layer in the atmosphere could have disastrous effects on our skin and eyes, and changes in the composition of the atmosphere could have severe repercussions for our climate.

Air pollution also affects our community by reducing the quality of life and consequently our ability to attract new business and employment. It reduces or even eliminates scenic views, destroying a major tourist and convention attraction. Health care costs also increase due to air pollution, and productivity suffers because of less healthy workers.

Policy Shift

The Region should have responsibility for reducing and controlling air pollution and to cooperate with all levels of government to that end. A reduction in the amount of motor vehicle exhaust gases need to be emphasized while maintaining steady improvements in industrial/commercial emissions.

Goals

To ensure the Region has the best air quality of any major urban area in Ontario by the year 2000, as determined by the Ministry of the Environment.

New Directions

- **REDUCE THE AMOUNT OF POLLUTANTS ENTERING THE ATMOSPHERE** - phase out incineration as a method of waste management; establish a Regional Environmental Office with the mandate to monitor emission levels and to undertake education programs on the causes and means reducing air pollution; develop bylaws restricting the amount of dust emissions from construction sites; encourage the Province of Ontario to develop strong emission standards for motor vehicles; support research efforts to develop new low pollution technology; lobby all levels of government to ban the use of ozone destroying chemicals by the year 2000; and reduce the number of single occupancy vehicles used for work trips through changes to land use and transportation planning.

- IMPROVE THE ABILITY OF THE NATURAL ENVIRONMENT TO ABSORB GASEOUS POLLUTANTS - develop a minimum standard for amount vegetation on residential lots; develop a tree protection bylaw; and prepare a strategy for tree planting and protection.
- IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF INDOOR AIR - in all Regional Government offices introduce indoor plants and new filtration technologies; undertake an audit of all Regional Government offices to ensure a high quality of indoor air; ensure building owners adhere to the requirements of adequate fresh air exchanges; and ensure there is strict enforcement of no smoking bylaws.

*"We are an environmentally conscious community . . .
where all can breathe fresh air, swim in clean streams and . . ."*



2.4 Reducing the Amount of Waste

Every ecosystem has a limit to the amount of waste it can absorb and tolerate. Hamilton-Wentworth's water, air and land and associated physical and biological systems are no different. It is essential to adopt a new ethic of resourcefulness, minimizing consumption, and substantially reducing the generation of waste.

Landfill sites take up a lot of space, and produce leachates which can and have polluted groundwater supplies. Incineration creates pollution, adding to the poor quality of our air. The public participation process revealed an universal concern, amongst citizens, about possible contamination of our community's air, soil and water. Many people felt recycling should be mandatory, while others felt there was a need for better pollution control, and desired a ban on toxins.

Hazardous waste can seep into groundwater contaminating the water. Heavy uses of fertilizers, pesticides, and herbicides in farming and home garden care result in toxic chemical run-off into surface and groundwater systems. The production and disposal of toxic materials was a particular concern of many people attending the September '92 Community Workshop. People were concerned with the distribution, storage, and transportation of toxic materials and with the identification and clean-up of contaminated sites.

Hamilton-Wentworth has already taken a number of actions to reduce the amount of solid waste and deal with the disposal of toxic materials. These include activities, such as, the blue box recycling program which has reached almost every household in the Region and the provision of backyard home composters. Further reduction in the amount of waste generated and going to landfill sites will require significant change in lifestyle by every citizen of Hamilton-Wentworth.

Policy Shift

Focus efforts in the area of reduction and virtual elimination of waste rather than on the management of waste after generation.

Goals

To educate citizens about the effect and costs of waste generation, and how waste can be reduced.

To reduce and eliminate the creation, use and disposal of hazardous substances.

To develop and implement a comprehensive waste prevention and management plan with a focus on pollution prevention, and with a strategy consisting of three components, in order of priority:

- 1) the reduction of waste going to the curb and down the sewer;
- 2) the diversion of waste for reuse or recycling; and
- 3) as a last resort, the disposal of the remaining minute amount of waste after reduction and diversion.

Principles

Everyone both individuals and corporations have a responsibility for the products they produce and the disposal of the waste they generate. The concept of product stewardship.

New Directions

- **DEVELOP A REGIONAL WASTE PREVENTION STRATEGY** - the strategy should incorporate waste reduction strategies, such as, the 3 R's, be based on quantity and quality, and should address all waste concerns (ie., solid waste, toxic chemical waste, incineration, and sewage sludge).
- **DEVELOP PROGRAMS TO REDUCE INDIVIDUAL WASTE** - institute mandatory recycling for households and business; develop and institute a user-pay system of garbage collection; develop a public information campaign about the financial and environmental costs of waste disposal; establish a waste-exchange depot; and enhance existing programs for recycling and waste reduction.
- **WORK TOWARDS ELIMINATION OF HAZARDOUS WASTE** - expand existing hazardous waste reduction and diversion programs, such as, household hazardous waste depot, develop public education programs, and maintain the sewer use control bylaw.
- **PREVENT DEVELOPMENT ON CONTAMINATED SITES AND FURTHER CONTAMINATION** - require landowners/developers to identify whether a site is contaminated before being permitted to undertake any land use changes; develop inventories identifying contaminated sites; and adopt the principle of virtual elimination of hazardous waste disposal.

2.5 Consuming Less Energy

Our use of energy has a tremendous effect on the sustainability of our community. The amount and types of energy we use to manufacture products, provide services, transport people and goods, and heat or cool our homes and workplaces plays a significant role in determining how economically competitive our firms are, how much wealth we export outside of the Region to pay for energy imports, how much carbon dioxide we release into the atmosphere, and how much air pollution and acid rain we indirectly cause.

Substantial savings in energy consumption could be effected relatively easily if energy conservation practices were adopted in the residential, commercial and industrial sectors. Alternative fuels and renewable solar/wind energy technologies need to be encouraged with buildings examined in the context of energy consumption and pollution generation.

Policy Shift

Energy efficiency is an important component of the approval for new construction and development of new equipment.

Transportation planning places an emphasis on reducing energy consumption.

Goals

To reduce the level of energy consumption and shift to renewable energy sources.

New Directions

- **PROMOTE ENERGY CONSERVATION** - Regional Government should take a leadership role by purchasing energy efficient equipment and facilities; work with electrical utilities to promote conservation measures and the availability of grants; and encourage the Province to require a high level of energy efficiency in all new construction.
- **MAKE USE OF ALTERNATIVE FORMS OF ENERGY** - continue the conversion of public transit vehicles to alternative low polluting fuels; and work with McMaster University, Mohawk College, the Chamber of Commerce, local industry, and other bodies to initiate programmes for development of new innovative technologies and products.
- **REDUCE THE NEED FOR USING THE PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE** - make appropriate changes in land use and transportation planning which will reduce the need for using the private motor vehicle for work trips and everyday activities.

3.0 Our Communities

3.1 Land Use in the Urban Area

Over the last three years, the Task Force has heard a great number of people express concerns about the quality and type of urban development occurring in Hamilton-Wentworth. Current development is seen by many citizens as unattractive, destructive of landscape character, wasteful of limited resources, and lacking in sense of community.

The urban community described in Vision 2020 is a more compact and diverse community than exists today. It is recognized that pressures to increase Hamilton-Wentworth's population will continue; and for new development, the issue of concern is the direction, size and form that this will take. The existing trend of urban sprawl is costly to the environment, and financially in the provision of government services. The encouragement of a more compact and diverse urban form will:

- allow the urban area to grow in population without taking up additional land, in particular agricultural land and natural areas;
- reduce servicing and maintenance costs for the municipality, developer and resident;
- allow the development of more effective, efficient and affordable public transit system;
- result in a more socially connected lifestyle;
- make walking and bicycling more viable transportation options; and
- require less energy for space heating with higher density housing.

Policy Shift

Development of a more compact and diverse urban area will require re-ordering of park/open space, land use priorities in the built-up areas, as well as, linking city and country.

Good planning will require the examination of overall, cumulative effects of proposed changes in land use, and judges them in the context of the Region's natural features, such as, climate, watercourses, animal and plant life-cycles.

Direct new urban development into the existing designated urban area and permit a mix of suitable land uses rather than distinct separation.

Goals

To encourage development which makes efficient use of new and existing infrastructure and services.

To minimize the environmental, social, and financial costs of new development to the residents of Hamilton-Wentworth.

To minimize urban sprawl, the encroachment on rural and agricultural lands and commuting distances.

To encourage and facilitate the everyday use of alternative modes of transportation, such as, walking, bicycling, and public transit.

"Different kinds of activities and land uses are mixed closely together, so that we can walk to meet our daily needs for work, recreation and other services."



New Directions

- **MAKE REVISIONS TO THE REGION'S OFFICIAL PLAN** - adopt policies which encourage a suitable diversity and mixing of land uses; adopt policies which encourage an increased density of use; and identify in the Official Plan a long term urban development pattern which will achieve the desires stated in Vision 2020.
- **DEVELOP POLICIES TO CONTAIN URBAN SPRAWL** - in the Region's Official Plan include the policies which incorporate the following four ideas.
 - 1) a firm urban boundary beyond which urban development will not be permitted.
 - 2) changes to the firm urban boundary will only be considered during the five year Official Plan Review.
 - 3) changes will only be considered if carried out in a manner consistent with efficient and economic provision of services and protection of agricultural land and natural areas.
 - 4) long term infrastructure plans will conform with these land use planning goals.
- **DEVELOP A PROGRAM FOR URBAN REVITALIZATION** - develop a plan, in cooperation with the area municipalities and citizens, that will make neighbourhood renewal and redevelopment a high priority; the Economic Development Department should encourage new business development to locate in the existing built urban area (infill, redevelopment, vacant buildings) rather than promoting new development in designated suburban business parks; and make, where appropriate, physical improvements to existing neighbourhoods (ie roads, parks and street lighting).
- **ENCOURAGE AREA MUNICIPALITIES TO REVISE AND SIMPLIFY THEIR ZONING BYLAWS** - there should be a ten category maximum to zoning bylaws; and make revisions to zoning bylaws and other appropriate documents to allow designated industrial-business parks to develop with a mix of residential, commercial and industrial land uses.
- **MAKE USE OF FINANCIAL TOOLS TO ENCOURAGE THE NEW URBAN FORM** - development charges and property taxes should reflect social and environmental costs as well as financial costs of service provision; eliminate development charges for development requiring no new services; and set development charges and property taxes in relation to desired density level (if above or below desired density, development charges and property taxes should increase).

4.0 Getting Around

4.1 Changing Our Mode of Transportation

The transportation system described in Vision 2020 is one where the car is no longer the dominant mode of transit. Transportation planning, instead of accommodating an increasing number of single occupancy vehicles, will promote a combination of techniques, such as, self-propelled transit (foot and bicycle), buses, ride-sharing, and proximity (working and playing near home), to complement the role of the automobile. Preference is given to modes of transportation, such as, walking and cycling, that promote human scale interaction and do not contribute to air and noise pollution.

Throughout the entire public involvement process, the Task Force heard people voice dissatisfaction about current opportunities for cycling, walking and using public transit. Many people felt too much emphasis has been placed on accommodating the automobile, resulting in serious air and noise pollution and loss of land.

Although it is recognized that the private automobile cannot be eliminated, transportation planning needs to go beyond the car. A linked land use and transportation plan is needed for Hamilton-Wentworth that promotes the use of low-polluting, energy efficient forms of transportation and which would have the flexibility to integrate pedestrians, cyclists, public transit, goods movement and private autos.

There are a number of benefits to a shift in the focus of transportation and land use planning. These include:

- reduced air and noise pollution and its negative effect on the environment;
- creation of a more liveable urban environment;
- decreased consumption of non-renewable resources;
- development of a more efficient and cost-effective public transit system;
- reduced municipal expenditures in road maintenance and construction and subsidization of public transit; and
- improved personal health and reduced public health care costs.

In addition to this concern about the mode of transportation, many public submissions expressed concerns about access to transit for people with disabilities. Although Hamilton-Wentworth has a transit service for people with disabilities, it is limiting because people must book rides days in advance. Accessible transportation is needed if people are to have access to employment, education and recreational facilities. Many people pointed out, that other communities (ie Vancouver) have made their regular transit system wheelchair accessible, thereby providing these people with access to same level of transit service as provided for the general population.

Policy Shift

The transportation system is defined in the broadest terms, to include both non-vehicular and vehicular modes of transportation, together with the infrastructure necessary for their use.

The focus of transportation and land use planning is on the basis of this order of transportation priorities: walking, needs of people with disabilities, bicycling, public transit, goods movement, and private motor vehicle. Management of the traffic growth replaces traditional view of accommodation.

Low polluting, energy efficient forms of transportation will steadily displace more heavily polluting motor vehicles as the standard means of people and goods movement in Hamilton-Wentworth.

Goals

To develop a sustainable transportation system for people, goods and services which:

- is environmentally friendly, affordable, efficient, convenient, and accessible;
- meets community needs;
- provides a level of service for people with disabilities which is comparable to regular public transit;
- provides for the safe movement of the public;
- considers safety in public spaces, through location and design of transit shelters, public walkways, bicycle paths and parking areas;
- provides access to all areas of the Region; and
- integrates public transit, bicycles, pedestrians, trucks and automobiles.

To encourage a shift in personal lifestyle and behaviour towards transportation choices that enhance personal health, fitness, save money, and with the lowest environmental effect.

"Public streets are designed . . . to accommodate comfortably and safely, public transit, cyclists, pedestrians, and automobiles as complementary forms of transportation."



New Directions

- **TAKE A LEADERSHIP ROLE AND LEAD BY EXAMPLE** - Regional Government should offer free transit passes to regional employees and councillors instead of free parking; convert municipal vehicles to energy efficient low polluting forms of energy; and encourage actions, such as, ridesharing amongst regional employees.
- **CREATE AN URBAN AREA WHICH ENCOURAGES THE USE OF ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION** - land use and transportation planning must be linked; prepare policies and plans for development of a more compact and diverse urban land development pattern; and design neighbourhoods so all bus stops are within a five minute walking distance.
- **DECREASE THE DEMAND FOR USING A PRIVATE MOTOR VEHICLE** - increase parking fees through an increase in property taxes and municipal property standards; encourage the Federal Government to make free employee parking a taxable benefit; consider road tolls for high activity areas; and encourage the Province of Ontario to implement a fuel tax based on full cost accounting.
- **PROVIDE INCENTIVES TO USE ALTERNATIVE MODES OF TRANSPORTATION** - develop park and ride facilities to link with public transit; decrease the cost of using public transit; work towards developing pedestrian friendly street environments; increase the separation on roads between pedestrian, cyclist and motor vehicles; and create bicycle routes and lanes.
- **CHANGE FUNDING PRIORITIES IN TRANSPORTATION** - over the long term shift the focus of municipal transportation expenditures from roads to public transit; and expand the Urban Transit Area to include the entire geographic area designated stage one urban in the Region's Official Plan.
- **DEVELOP A PUBLIC TRANSIT SYSTEM FOR PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES THAT PROVIDES SERVICE EQUIVALENT TO THAT AVAILABLE TO THE GENERAL POPULATION** - consider the purchase of buses which can accommodate wheelchairs; and develop a long term plan for the integration of transit services for people with disabilities with regular transit service.
- **EDUCATE PEOPLE ON NEED FOR MORE ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY TRANSPORTATION PRACTICES** - develop a program identifying financial, social and environmental costs of current transportation system and eventual benefits to change.

5.0 Quality of Life

5.1 Personal Health and Well Being

In Vision 2020 the Task Force envisions a community where everyone has adequate food, shelter, income and education. Citizens are involved in their community while educational and cultural institutions educate us about the principles and values of sustainable development. During the public participation programme many citizens talked about emerging social trends in our community and the need to address them. These included, the aging of the population, access to appropriate health care, poverty and affordability, and the need to invest in life long learning skills. It was recognized by many that the definition of quality of life needs to shift from its current focus on materialist acquisitions to one stressing personal health and vitality.

Our personal health and well being, is affected by numerous interactive factors including: the quality of the air we breathe and the water we drink, the availability of food, the quality of housing, the safety of our communities, the opportunities to find meaningful employment and receive a fair and adequate income, the quality of and accessibility to educational, cultural, health, and social services/institutions, the opportunities for meaningful involvement in our communities and their governance, the availability of social networks, human physiology, the opportunities for lifelong learning and the lifestyle decisions we make. There is a growing recognition of the link between our socioeconomic and physical environments and individual health and well being. As health care costs rise more and more emphasis will be placed on prevention rather than intervention.

Policy Shift

The focus of the health care system should be on health promotion and disease prevention, that is, to address factors in the physical and socioeconomic environments and individual and community lifestyles that effect personal health and well being.

Goals

To increase the number of years of good health for all citizens by reducing illness, disability, and premature deaths.

To develop cultural institutions that reflect our historical development and to encourage contributions from our increasingly diverse population.

To develop the social and physical environments that allow all citizens to participate fully in our community.

To develop a population that is literate, educated, possesses the skills of lifelong learning and supports the concept of sustainable development.

Principles

Educational, cultural, health and social services are based on community needs and provide the opportunity for all citizens to have meaningful participation.

The skills of lifelong learning enable people to contribute meaningfully to their community and are relevant to a broad range of employment possibilities, affords opportunity for people to maximize their potential, and to make choices for themselves throughout their lives.

New Directions

- **DEVELOP NEW TOOLS AND MECHANISMS FOR DELIVERY OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES** - develop an integrated health and social services plan for the Region; ensure services are provided according to community needs; support the rationalization of health services and the emphasis on health promotion and disease prevention; prepare for the devolution to the Region by the Province the responsibility for planning, coordination, and delivery of health and social services; undertake efforts to ensure an accessible, affordable, nutritious, and personally acceptable supply of food, safe drinking water and housing for everyone; and promote Hamilton-Wentworth as working towards being a healthy community.
- **EDUCATE EVERYONE ABOUT THE VALUES OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT** - promote leaders and role models; train teachers in the concept of sustainable development; provide teaching awards in sustainable development; assist and educate community organizations in adopting more sustainable practices; and provide leadership to the community through internal activities of Regional Government.
- **PROVIDE SUPPORT TO CULTURAL SERVICES AND INSTITUTIONS** - encourage street level, spontaneous arts by creating exhibit space and opportunities; encourage educational institutions to develop strong arts curricula and linkages between the schools, art organizations and artists; provide appropriate support for art organizations in the Region; establish strong heritage policies for review of development applications; prepare a Regional inventory of archaeological and heritage sites; and promote a coordinated approach to the cultural dimensions of the community (eg. coordinate the marketing of the Arts/Cultural/Historical/Recreational services/Facilities).

5.2 Community Empowerment

Early in its mandate, the Task Force, agree that one of the fundamental principles of sustainable development was the involvement of everyone in the definition and development of local solutions to community issues and problems. A more sustainable community will result if citizens have the opportunity for meaningful participation in the decision-making processes of local government, on the issues that effect their community.

A concern repeated over and over, during the entire public participation process, was that local government is no longer responsive to its citizens, has failed to provide leadership and exhibits little commitment to long term goals, policies, and plans. Although the Task Force and its mandate is a step towards addressing this concern, people expressed a real distrust about the commitment of Regional Government to act upon their voiced ideas and concerns on Hamilton-Wentworth's future.

"As citizens, we are active participants in cooperative, region-wide community planning."



Goals

To allow all citizens from our diverse population the opportunity to have meaningful participation in government and in cultural, educational, health and social service/institutions.

To ensure all levels of government are coordinated, efficient, effective and easily accessible to all citizens.

Principles

Local government is sensitive and responsive to the needs of the community, easily accessible to citizens and allows for meaningful participation by all members of the community.

New Directions

- DEVELOP MECHANISMS THAT WILL ENSURE A HIGH LEVEL OF CITIZEN INVOLVEMENT - use a "jury like" selection procedure for public committees; hold regular town hall meetings and other forums to facilitate citizen input; establish a regional office for citizen action and outreach; support community development activities; develop community consultation guidelines to be followed by all regional departments; support initiatives which enable family members and neighbours to care for each other and other members of their community (e.g., Parent Watch); and support community groups to solve community problems.

6.0 Livelihood

6.1 The Local Economy

Vision 2020 expresses a concern about the restructuring of the local economy and a desire to achieve full employment. A major concern heard throughout the public participation process was a need to pursue a diverse, self sufficient economy.

Although people were obviously concerned about current job losses, no one expressed a wish for new business development at any cost. If we are to maintain the long term viability of our community, new development must be sensitive to the long term social, environmental, and economic effects on the community.

Policy Shift

The current approach to economic development which is basically the traditional approach to economic development, includes an emphasis on job creation and capital investment via marketing and promotion. These are not the only key indicators of economic development.

A new approach to economic development is needed, which emphasizes a diversified and stable economy and the goals of retraining and expanding the existing businesses and employment, improving people's skills, training, education and productivity, technological advancement, and careful management of our limited natural resources.

Goals

To improve the ability of local business to compete both locally and globally and thus provide all citizens with an opportunity to have an income to meet, as a minimum, the necessities of life.

To increase the number of companies that are non-polluting and those that actually produce quality of life products which control, reduce and prevent pollution.

To make Hamilton-Wentworth's labour force the best trained and adaptable in the world, in order, to ensure local business is competitive and innovative.

"A stable, flexible economy is achieved through the effective use and development of all community resources."



Principles

People and their skills, knowledge and training are the keys to future economic prosperity.

Everyone should have access to adequate income opportunities and effective education and training opportunities.

Effects on the natural environment caused by business activities and development must be included in all decision making, with a view to reducing effects to a level that it is not at the expense of future generations or the natural environment.

Success requires cooperation among all parties in the community.

New Directions

- **IMPROVE THE EDUCATION AND SKILL LEVELS OF LOCAL WORKFORCE** - support the Hamilton Public Library's SkillSource which provides access to current information on training, education, and related government support programs; encourage local school boards to include entrepreneurship and business studies in their curriculum; ensure the Region's Economic Strategy incorporates human resource development plans; and encourage local employers to undertake training in the workplace.
- **PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO LOCAL BUSINESS** - make government services available outside normal business hours; reduce red tape by providing an information package on permits, business licenses, and grant applications; establish a group to promote the purchase of locally produced goods over imports; and encourage and support research and development activities by local firms.
- **ENCOURAGE AND SUPPORT LOCALLY OWNED BUSINESS** - provide small business start-up assistance; establish a community equity fund; and create a centralized resource centre to assist people wishing to start a business.
- **INCREASE AWARENESS OF THE BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES IN THE ENVIRONMENTAL SECTOR** - assist in the export of locally developed quality of life products, such as, water, air and soil quality technologies and recycling programs; sponsor an environmental products competition; host an annual sustainable development products showcase; and provide appropriate assistance to help local industries become more environmentally friendly.

6.2 Agriculture and the Rural Economy

Approximately 52% of Hamilton-Wentworth's land area is farms. Annual farm expenditures are almost \$128 million while annual farm receipts total approximately \$159 million. Agriculture is obviously an important component of the Region, both geographically and economically.

The agricultural sector is, however, under tremendous pressure from numerous sources. There are uncertainties about the long term viability of farming as an occupation, urban expansion and the demand for land places heavy pressure on farmers to sell productive land and there is a potential conflict between farm productivity and environmental protection.

"Agriculture, . . . a strategic . . . resource, is a vibrant part of the regional economy, which makes a . . . contribution to our overall quality of life."



Policy Shift

Preservation of the agricultural land base is fundamental to solving any of the problems in the agricultural sector. Society must make clear statements that will provide for certainty and stability in the rural areas. Agriculture is the best use for the land and we must be willing to clearly state our support for agricultural land stewardship and develop an agricultural first philosophy.

Goals

To promote sustainable farming techniques.

To retain agriculture as a viable economic activity in Hamilton-Wentworth.

New Directions

- SLOW AND EVENTUALLY ELIMINATE LAND SPECULATION PRESSURES - develop a firm boundary beyond which urban development will not occur; phase out rural land severances for estate developments; encourage the development of a more compact urban form; and develop policies for the protection of water recharge areas from over development and contamination.
- SUPPORT AND IMPROVE THE ECONOMIC VIABILITY OF LOCAL AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES - allow more flexibility in regulations regarding roadside stands; change regulations to allow more processing to occur on the farm; permit the direct sale of farm produce to the public; develop a local farmer's market in every community; reduce financial costs to farmers through revisions to the property tax assessment in rural areas; develop activities to promote local farming operations and pick your own operations; and incorporate agriculture as an important component of the Region's Economic Strategy.
- PROVIDE EDUCATION ON SUSTAINABLE FARMING AND CONCEPT OF LAND STEWARDSHIP - encourage a reduction in the use of chemicals in farming; phase out and eventually eliminate the use of chemicals in home lawn and garden care; phase out the use of road salt on municipal and regional roads; encourage the development of courses on new farming techniques; establish farm tour programs for general public; and encourage local school boards to expand their curriculums to include agriculture and farming.

7.0 What Next?

Probably the most important aspect of any plan is the process of implementation. This report reflects a consensus among individuals from a variety of backgrounds, about the shift in directions needed to create a sustainable community. Regional Government, the Area Municipalities and a number of private and public agencies have already taken steps in the proposed directions, but there is still a need for significant change and improved coordination.

Regional Council has indicated a strong commitment to sustainable development by adopting "**VISION 2020 - The Sustainable Region**". This report is intended to assist Council in achieving the goal of a sustainable community.

In order to ensure continued action, the Task Force proposes the following activities:

- 1) **COORDINATION** - For many of the directions presented in this report to be achieved, it is imperative that there be coordination between Provincial, Regional, Area Municipal and private agencies policies and initiatives. Mechanisms are needed to bring the various groups together and working towards a common goal. Regional Government with a mandate that encompasses the entire geographic area of the Region has a special role to provide the leadership in coordinating activities.
- 2) **PUBLIC EDUCATION** - Creation of a community based on the principles of sustainable development will require changes in the lifestyle, behaviour and expectations of every citizen. The work initiated by the Task Force in developing an understanding about sustainable development should continue. A coordinated public education campaign is required to ensure people understand the need for change, the benefits to change, and how they can change.
- 3) **FOLLOW-UP** - During the entire public outreach programme, the Task Force heard citizens voice a concern that local government is no longer responsive to the wishes and desires of its citizens. Although Regional Government has already taken a number of actions towards the creating a sustainable community, people seemed to be unaware of these activities and how these activities could be considered sustainable. There is need to develop mechanisms highlighting the implementation of "Vision 2020".

It is suggested that the Region host every October an annual Vision 2020 community shareholders meeting. The citizens of Hamilton-Wentworth would be invited to an annual report identifying how much closer the Region is to achieving the community stated in Vision 2020.

Appendix A - A Vision of a More Sustainable Future

On June 16, 1992 Regional Council adopted "Vision 2020 - The Sustainable Region" as a basis for regional decision making in Hamilton-Wentworth. The vision statement is an image of a better community, a goal toward which we can strive. Sustainable development and Vision 2020 is a challenge to every citizen to think about how their actions can move our community towards a more sustainable future. The following is the text of Vision 2020.

VISION 2020 - The Sustainable Region

Foreword

Sustainable Development is positive change which does not undermine the environment or social systems on which we depend. It requires a coordinated approach to planning and policy making that involves public participation. Its success depends upon widespread understanding of the critical relationship between people and their environment and the will to make the necessary changes. Principles of sustainable development encompass the following:

- *fulfilment of human needs for peace, clean air and water, food, shelter, education, and useful and satisfying employment;*
- *maintenance of ecological integrity through careful stewardship, rehabilitation, reduction in wastes and protection of diverse and important natural species and systems;*
- *provision for self-determination through public involvement in the definition and development of local solutions to environmental and development problems; and,*
- *achievement of equity with the fairest possible sharing of limited resources among contemporaries and between our generation and that of our descendants.*

These basic values underlie Vision 2020. The vision expresses ideas contributed by citizens through several phases of community participation. It is the beginning of an ongoing process leading to a sustainable region.

An Overview

In the year 2020, Hamilton-Wentworth supports a population consistent with the carrying capacity of the region. People live in a region made up of compact urban core areas, surrounded by a rural landscape that includes productive family farms, hamlets and a continuous network of natural areas.

We are an environmentally conscious community where the existence of all living things is cherished and where all can breathe fresh air, swim in clean streams and lakes and have ample opportunity to observe and experience the wonders of the natural world.

We are an economically, socially and culturally diverse community that encourages opportunities for individuals, reduces inequities and ensures full participation for all in community life.

We are a caring community that gives opportunity and support to all its members, including children, the aged, people with disabilities, immigrants and refugees. People live longer in good health.

Finally, we are a vibrant, vigorous community which builds on existing strengths and attracts wealth producing businesses that work in partnership with government and the community to create a diverse, sustainable economy. Economic growth incorporates non-polluting, energy efficient and environmentally friendly businesses, including traditional manufacturing industries that have been supported and helped to become environmentally sustainable. Business, government, labour and the community have great capacity for innovation in response to global change.

The Landscape

The health and beauty of the countryside and townscape is a source of great civic pride. A protected system of natural areas threads throughout the region, preserving and improving our natural heritage. This system of natural areas and connecting corridors allows wildlife to migrate, enhancing their chances of reproducing and finding food and shelter. A recreational greenway gives residents access to this system of natural areas, in ways that do not threaten ecological processes. Recreation and the needs of wildlife for a protected habitat co-exist.

As a community, we cherish a clean, healthy environment and work to prevent ecological degradation. Waste-reduction, energy-efficiency and respect for ecological systems characterize all aspects of community life and decision making, including government, business and industry. Citizens abide by environmental laws and regulations and help educate each other on ways of living in harmony with the natural world. We are a model for other communities in the way in which we integrate short-term economic benefits, long-term environmental and social costs, and indirect economic costs in our evaluation of public and private initiatives.

Our Communities

Urban areas are laid out, and individual buildings designed and located, in ways that maintain community character, respect our cultural and natural heritage, and satisfy people's needs and desires. Urban development occurs within firm boundaries. Green corridors bring nature into the city, giving people easy and convenient access to the open countryside, natural areas and continuous public open space along the bayshore and lakeshore. Our neighbourhoods are models of energy-efficiency, waste-reduction and respect for nature. Human needs for space, privacy, safety, and aesthetic appeal are fulfilled.

In the year 2020, we know our neighbours. We live in communities and neighbourhoods together with people of all ages and walks of life. Different kinds of activities and land uses are mixed closely together, so that we can walk to meet our daily needs for work, recreation and other services. Each neighbourhood has a central gathering place where essential services such as shopping, health care, education and recreation are clustered around an attractive, car-free common open space.

This gives everyone an opportunity to participate in all aspects of community life. Each neighbourhood has a full range of housing types and prices allowing people to live in their communities throughout their lives. This is true also for former suburban industrial-business parks, which have been re-developed with homes and other activities mixed in with the workplace.

Hamilton-Wentworth is a warm and friendly place where people actively care for their community and are concerned for one another's welfare. The streets and public areas are safe at all times. Neighbourhoods have strong local identity. Residents actively participate in community life, to a large extent, controlling the pace and design of change. The decision-making process is easily understood and open to involvement by all. Politicians and public employees take the actions needed to achieve long-term community plans.

Getting Around

An integrated public transportation system serves the entire region in an affordable, efficient, and accessible way. Clean forms of transportation predominate. Public streets are designed and managed (including signals and regulations) to accommodate comfortably and safely, public transit, cyclists, pedestrians and automobiles as complementary forms of transportation. The integrated transportation system gives access to all basic needs. Public transit provides all citizens with easy access to activity areas, as well as to neighbouring communities and cities via convenient and frequent inter-urban transit. Most people can walk or cycle to work because jobs and housing are near one another. Major roads have minimal noise and pollution impacts on adjacent lands, and follow routes that cause little damage to the natural and human environment.

Quality of Life

In the year 2020, disease and disability are being progressively reduced. All of us achieve our full potential in a safe, non-violent environment. Everyone has adequate food, shelter, income and education. Everyone has a valued role to play in family, work and community. We have access to affordable and appropriate health care, regardless of geography, income, age, gender, or cultural background. Cultural institutions and activities are recognized and supported for their contribution to community life and economic health. Cultural institutions reflect our historical development and the contributions of our diverse population.

All of us take responsibility for our health, citizenship and public decision-making. As citizens, we are active participants in cooperative, region-wide community planning. Government is coordinated, efficient and easily accessible. A well-educated, literate population is seen as a total community responsibility. Schools are leaders in effective learning and excellence in teaching. Lifelong learning is valued and supported across the community. All citizens are knowledgeable about sustainable development and quality of life issues. Our cultural institutions and groups advocate values consistent with environmental sustainability. Educational institutions instill sustainable values and citizens pursue sustainable lifestyles.

Livelihood

A stable, flexible economy is achieved through the effective use and development of all community resources. This means not only land, capital equipment, and community services, but the continued improvement and retention of a skilled workforce. Economic strategies, set through a cooperative process involving citizens, business, government, education and labour, include effective job-training and re-training programmes. All people can find employment opportunities in the region.

The region is home to numerous firms that carry out research and development and manufacture in sustainable economic sectors. Successful companies are characterized by high production quality and worker productivity, and innovative employment practices such as on-site daycare, jobsharing, work-at-home arrangements, and cooperative, community-based job creation. These companies provide a solid tax base for the region. Business and industry actively participate with government in advanced skill training programmes, including programmes designed to enhance employment accessibility for people with disabilities. Firms are at the forefront of energy efficiency; and pollution control and prevention; and material re-use and recycling.

Hamilton-Wentworth is now home to a whole new economic sector based on the natural resources of the region. Hamilton Harbour is a base for nature-oriented tourism and recreation, that includes the Niagara Escarpment, waterfalls and Carolinian forest areas of the region. The harbour is a vibrant centrepiece for the community and is accessible, clean, and humming with diversity. Recreation co-exists with use of the harbour as an essential marine transportation link.

Agriculture, now considered a strategic community resource, is a vibrant part of the regional economy, which makes a valued contribution to our overall quality of life. The farming community is economically viable and environmentally sensitive, capable of supporting family farming operations that are competitive internationally. The farming community is in harmony with neighbouring urban areas using clean, organic urban waste to enhance the soil. Prime agricultural land is recognized by all citizens as irreplaceable and strong policies and programs ensure its continued use for food production. Moreover, agricultural soils are continuously improved through the widespread use of sustainable farm practices. Vacation farming ensures an enhanced profile for local agriculture.

Appendix B - Publications

Task Force Publications

VISION 2020 - The Sustainable Region
Directions for Creating a Sustainable Region
Detailed Strategies and Actions for Creating a Sustainable Region

Public Participation Summary Reports

1. Public Participation Program, Autumn 1990
2. Community Focus Groups
3. Community Forum: Creating the Sustainable Region
4. Working Group Final Reports
5. Vision 2020: Community Meeting
6. Community Workshop: Creating the Sustainable Region
7. Implementation Team Reports

Background Papers (prepared by the Planning and Development Department for the Chairman's Task Force on Sustainable Development).

1. Government in Hamilton-Wentworth
2. Demographic Trends and Social Adjustment
3. Workforce Education and Human Development
4. Transportation, Physical Services and Land Use
5. Economic Base and Livelihood
6. Food, Rural Land Use and the Agricultural Economy
7. Environment and Health
8. Greenspace and Natural Areas
9. Energy, Waste and Resource Consumption
10. Poverty, Social Equity and Community Well-Being
11. Population Health and the Health Care System

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